

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-02 SMI-01

OES-06 /025 W

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R 210843Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OGEN ET FR SCUL

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AFAR EXPEDITION

REF: ADDIS 10979 AND PREVUIOUS

1. DR. DON JOHANSON VISITED EMBASSY ON OCTOBER 20 TO REPORT OUTCOME HIS VISIT TENDAHO/MILE/DUBTI AREA. HE INFORMED EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH CIVILIAN GOVERNOR, MILITARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT SUFFICIENT SECURITY COULD BE PROVIDED TO PROCEED WITH DIG. JOHANSON STATED LOCAL OFFICIALS HAD ORALLY ASSURED HIM THAT THEY WOULD GUARANTEE SECURITY OF EXPEDITION.

2. JOHANSON ADVISED EMBASSY THAT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN: (A) FOUR AFAR GUARDS WOULD BE PRESENT AT CAMP (GUARDS WOULD ALSO KEEP GROUP INFORMED OF TRIBUAL MOVEMENTS IN AREA); (B) ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO BORROW LICENSED RADIO FROM FRENCH GEOLOGIST WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BE IN CONTACT WITH ADDIS, DJIBOUTI AND NEARBY TENDAHO PLANTATION; (C) RADIO CONTACT WOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ADDIS TWICE DAILY; (D) PERSONAL ASSURANCES OF POLISH CROP DUSTING PILOT WITH ACCESS TO 16 PASSENGER PLANE HAD BEEN OBTAINED THAT HE WOULD BE AT GROUP'S DISPOSAL IF NECESSARY; (F) ADDITIONAL VEHICLE HAD BEEN PURCHASED AND DRIVER HIRED TO PROVIDE NORMAL LOGISTICS AND MINIMIZE TRAVEL FROM DIG SITE; AND (G) TENDAHO PLANTATION PLANE WOULD IN COURSE OF

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NORMAL BI-WEEKLY FLIGHTS OVERFLY CAMP AND CLEAR SIGNALS

HAD BEEN ARRANGED TO INDICATE EMERGENCY SITUATION.

3. EMBOFF STATED TO JOHANSON THAT EMBASSY'S POSTION (REF-TEL) UNCHANGED AND ASKED IF DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO PLACE TEAM IN FIELD. UPON RECEIPT OF AFFIRMATIVE REPLY, RMBOFF REQUESTED JOHANSON SUBMIT IN WRITING COMPLETE LIST OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, NAMES OF PARTY AND NEXT OF KIN.

4. GROUP DOES NOT YET HAVE PERMISSION TO USE RADIO NOR IS IT ASSURED THAT POLISH PILOT WILL IN FACT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN NECESSAREY FLIGHT CLEARANCES IF AND WHEN REQUIRED. GROUP EXPECTS TO PROCEED TO SITE ABOUT NOVEMBER 1 AND TO RETURN ABOUT JANUARY 15.

5. SHORTLY AFTER VISIT BY JOHANSON, EMBOFF WAS VISITED BY JOHN KALB, DIRECTOR OF RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH, WHICH HAS TEAM OF APPROXIMATELY 10 AMERICANS AND ETHIOPIANS OPERATING IN LOWER AWASH AREA. EMBOFF REITERATED SECURITY PROBLEMS IN AREA (REFTEL) AND EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT AREA WAS UNSAFE. HALB NOTED HIS PARTY HAD BEEN IN AREA FOR PASTMONTH WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE RE-SEARCH IN LOWER AWASH. EMBOFF ASKED KALB TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY VIS-A-VIS MOVEMENTS TO FIELD SO WE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE HIM ON SECURITY SITUATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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